Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 5-9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--This application is a continuation-in-part application of PCT International Application No. PCT/JP98/05319 which has an international filing date of November 26, 1998 which designated the United States, and which claims priority to Japanese Application 9-323684/1997, which has a Japanese filing date of November 26, 1997 the entire contents of which are incorporated by reference.--

A3

Please add the following new paragraph at page 8, line 15 after the heading "BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS"

--The file of this patent contains at least one drawing executed in color. Copies of this patent with color drawing(s) will be provided by the Patent and Trademark Office upon request and payment of the necessary fee.--

A4

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 15 and ending at page 23, lines 1-18 with the following replacement paragraph:

--Thus, an anti-mouse L-FABP polyclonal antibody was prepared. The antigen, mouse L-FABP, was prepared according to the method disclosed in the literature (Takahashi et al., Eur. J. Biochem., vol. 136, p. 589-601, 1983), as follows. That is, to the excised liver from a mouse killed by bleeding was added a four-time volume of 30 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 8), and the mixture was treated by a polythoron-type homogenizer. The resultant was centrifuged at 8000 rpm for 15 minutes, and the supernatant thus obtained was further ultra-centrifuged at 100,000 x g for 90 minutes to give the cytoplasm fraction. The cytoplasm fraction was separated by gel filtration column (SEPHACRYL™ S-100HR, manufactured by Pharmacia Inc.), and the fractions exhibiting a fatty acid binding activity were collected, checking as an indicator a binding activity to ANS (1-anilinonaphthalene-8-sulfonic acid, manufactured by Polysciences, Inc.). The obtained fractions of a molecular weight of 10 to 20 kilodalton were combined and dialyzed against 10 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 8.5), and then charged onto an anion exchange column (HiTrap Q, manufactured by Pharmacia Inc.) and eluted with a solvent of liner gradient to 500 mM NaCl, and the fractions exhibiting an ANS-binding activities were collected. Moreover, the resultant was further separated by gel filtration

column (SEPHACRYL™ S-100HR, manufactured by Pharmacia Inc.) in the same manner as above, and each fraction thus obtained was subjected to SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, and the fraction showing a single band of about 14 kilodalton was collected go give a purified mouse L-FABP.--

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 25, line 12 and ending on page 26, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--cDNA of human L-FABP was obtained by PCR (polymerase chain reaction) from the cDNA library derived from human liver (manufactured by CLONTECH Laboratories Inc., Cat # HL1115b Lot # 5621). An oligonucleotide of 23 to 27mers synthesized by a DNA synthesizer was used as a primer. The nucleotide sequence of the primer was designed based on the gene sequence of human L-FABP disclosed in the literature (Lowe et al., J. Biol. Chem., vol. 260, p. 3413-3417, 1985) and Gene Data Base (GENBANK Accession No. M10617), with adding a restriction enzyme recognition site for inserting an expression vector at the end of the primer. The obtained DNA fragment (about 420 base pairs) has a *Bam*HI recognition site before the initiation codon, and

A16 cont'd

the *Bam*HI recognition site after the termination codon, and encodes the desired full-length human L-FABP.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 20 and ending at page 27, lines 1-15 with the following replacement paragraph:

--The obtained cells were broken by ultrasonic, and the cell extract was dialyzed against 5 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 8.5). The resultant was separated by anion exchange column (RESOURSE Q 6 ml, manufactured by Pharmacia, Inc.), eluted with a solvent of liner gradient to 300 mM NaCl, and the fraction showing ANS-binding activity was collected. The fraction was concentrated by ultra filtration with Centriprep (manufactured by AMICON LTD.), and separated by gel filtration column (SUPERDEX™ 75pg, manufactured by Pharmacia Inc.), and the fraction showing ANS-binding activity was collected to give a human L-FABP fusion protein. To the human L-FABP fusion protein thus obtained was added Factor Xa (manufactured by New England Biolabs Inc.) in 1/100 weight, and the mixture was reacted at room temperature overnight for restriction degradation. The reaction solution after the enzyme treatment was separated again by gel filtration, and the fraction of about 14 kilodalton showing

A17